

# The OSCILLATOR

Volume 30 Issue 10  
October 2007

Oregon Tualatin Valley  
Amateur Radio Club

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We seek to advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

- ⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
- ⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication
- ⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings
- ⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone. An amateur radio license is not required.



## BOB'S BARREL

It is now fall, the daily temperatures have dropped, and evening temperatures are at a comfortable sleeping level. The HF Bands appear to be more active. They were for me during the last weekend. Now is the time for all of us to upgrade our license if you can. Classes are forming for both General Class License and later Extra Class License. This will allow all to enjoy further the privileges afforded. Please consider taking advantage of the classes offered.

The board has not received any adverse reports regarding our last meeting conducted at the Pepper Mill restaurant; therefore the Board recommends we continue our meeting at the Peppermill. The Hillsboro Elks Lodge Board, after being contacted, stated that we would be welcome on the 1st or 4th Wednesday of the month. Food available from the kitchen would be hamburgers, chicken sandwich, and other similar items. Unless we hear further from you, the members, we will remain at the Peppermill. Arrangements are being made to obtain a small PA system. This will allow to hear and be heard. October 10th is our next meeting; see you at the Peppermill.

## 50th Anniversary Of Sputnik

On October 4, 1957 the Soviet Union launched Sputnik I, the first artificial earth satellite. Sputnik was the size of a basketball and weighed 183 pounds. Its orbit took it around the earth in about 98 minutes on an elliptical path. Sputnik was a single event but marked the opening of the space age.

In 1952 the International Council of Scientific Unions established July 1, 1957 to December 31, 1958 as the *International Geophysical Year* (IGY). The US decided to pursue the Vanguard program. The effort of the USSR to beat the US to space marked the beginning of the space race. Listen to the Sputnik beacon at: [history.nasa.gov/sputnik/sputnik.wav](http://history.nasa.gov/sputnik/sputnik.wav)

Our repeater work party will attempt to repair the antenna 30th September come rain or shine, per Wes. This will improve the 146.960 signal for all.

Elections are coming in December. If you would like to run one of the offices or Trustee positions, let the nominating Chairman, Everett W6ABM or his committee know.

73

Robert WN7O

## CLUB MEETING

WEDNESDAY, October 10th

OTVARC is affiliated with ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio and is a *Special Service Club*. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Our October 10th meeting will be held at **Peppermill Restaurant**, 17455 SW Farmington Rd, Beaverton beginning at 7:00 pm.

Our program will feature Dick Bass W7SMA on the "Global Distress and Safety System."

The **Peppermill** menu offers a variety of choices. Come at 6:00 pm if you'd like to enjoy a meal with members and guests. **See you on October 10th.**

## Happy October Birthday

|    |                 |        |
|----|-----------------|--------|
| 1  | Barbara Riley   | K6UZW  |
| 1  | Robert Young    | KB7MFD |
| 13 | Steven Sanders  | KE7FTD |
| 15 | Richard Banton  | KD7THV |
| 16 | Bud Carswell    | KB7NUO |
| 17 | Bud Butterfield | KC7PS  |
| 22 | Ed Pratasiewicz | KE7GXL |
| 22 | Richard Welk    | KB7EW  |
| 22 | Sam Senior      | N7KJN  |
| 24 | Tom Hicks       | N7UBT  |
| 25 | Jerry E. Miller | NB7P   |
| 28 | Carl Clawson    | WS7L   |
| 29 | Dena Kent       | K1DNA  |

Have we missed your birthday?  
Likely we do not have your correct  
date in our database.

Send updates and corrections to  
[otvarc@gmail.com](mailto:otvarc@gmail.com)

## TRAVELERS'

Our *Travelers' Campout* for November is November 16 - 18 at Wandering Spirit RV Park in Grand Ronde. Advance reservations allow the group to be located together in the campground, call Geno at 503.614.0563.

All club members are invited to the Annual Thanksgiving Potluck, whether camping or not. Let Geno know you're coming so he'll have enough meat prepared. Bring a vegetable, salad or dessert to share. The potluck is held on Saturday evening, November 17th. At 5:30 pm.

The Wandering Spirit RV Park is located at 28800 Salmon River Hwy, Grand Ronde -- on Oregon Highway 18, 1 1/2 miles west of Spirit Mountain Casino. The Casino runs a shuttle bus between the park and the casino for those who wish to challenge the house.

General information on Travelers' events may be obtained from Betty N7REX at [n7rex@teleport.com](mailto:n7rex@teleport.com) or by phone, 503.642.1284..

Your **business advertising** in *THE OSCILLATOR* is seen by members and others each month. Currently, we have more than 185 members who read each issue of *THE OSCILLATOR*.

To include your "Business Card" ad (\$36.00 annually) or "Display" - HRO size ad (\$48.00 annually), contact **Maureen O'Rourke** at 503.591.9641. There is currently limited space available.

### OTVARC ADDRESS:

**880 NE 25th Ave Ste 2-160  
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## LUNCH BUNCH

### October Lunch Bunch

Will be held at

### SwapToberfest Rickreal

On Saturday, October 27th  
12:00 Noon in the Lunch Room

The Lunch Bunch gives members and their guests  
Opportunity to get acquainted at an  
Informal event.

For More Information  
call KC7YTD Linda  
503.246.8879

### 146.960 MHz Repeater By Shoutcast

The club's 146.960 MHz Repeater is heard via the Internet at [www.shoutcast.com](http://www.shoutcast.com). Search for W7OTV. The stream is up 24/7 at 48 kbps with a max of 32 listeners. Listening only, no transmit capability.

#### 16 AUGUST — 16 SEPTEMBER, 2007

|    | Country        | Visitors  | Listening for:  |
|----|----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 1  | United States  | 43        | 8:52:57         |
| 2  | Germany        | 11        | 2:15:00         |
| 3  | France         | 4         | 0:07:14         |
| 4  | Spain          | 3         | 0:06:55         |
| 5  | Canada         | 2         | 0:04:21         |
| 6  | Italy          | 2         | 0:05:58         |
| 7  | United Kingdom | 2         | 8:06:45         |
| 8  | Slovenia       | 2         | 0:02:17         |
| 9  | Switzerland    | 1         | 0:03:16         |
| 10 | Uruguay        | 1         | 0:01:01         |
| 11 | Netherlands    | 1         | 0:12:11         |
| 12 | Sweden         | 1         | 0:01:04         |
| 13 | Belgium        | 1         | 0:51:20         |
| 14 | Brazil         | 1         | 0:01:25         |
|    | <b>Total</b>   | <b>75</b> | <b>20:51:44</b> |



## HD Broadcast Moves Forward

Jim Boyd K7MKN has been installing HD broadcast radio in the northwest. He is among broadcast engineers nationwide helping the broadcast industry move FM and AM service to the new system. KGON in Portland was the first station in Oregon to move to the digital system. OTVARC's 440.35 MHz repeater is located on the KGON tower. HD Radio is a trademark of Ibiqity Corporation, owned by the major broadcast chains in the United States encouraging the move to digital broadcast radio. There are now more than 1,200 US broadcasters using HD digital signals.

In his presentation to the club on September 12th, Jim indicated that he has installed more than a dozen of the stations. The FM and AM systems are somewhat different due to the "digital mask" required for each band. AM digital stations were not allowed to operate beyond "local sunset" due to interference fears. That ban was lifted by the FCC on September 14th. Jim indicated that experience would demonstrate whether severe adjacent station interference from out-of-market stations would be a significant problem.

Asked how quickly the digital systems would become "the norm" Jim said he believed that would be influenced largely by how quickly HD radio became available in automobiles. Ford Motor Company announced September 26th that HD radio would be available as a dealer-installed option on all its 2008 vehicles.

Demonstration models of "first-generation" HD home radio sets were operating at the meeting. First-generation sets have improved since being introduced last year. The biggest issue for home units has been sensitivity, with some being "numb" according to Jim Boyd. Antenna alignment and location plays a large role in successful reception.

One benefit of HD radio is the ability to provide multiple broadcast streams. Currently, some stations provide two streams, where the system is designed to eventually provide three. The quality of delivered sound is that of CDs.

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## BUDDIPOLE TO MOVE TO HILLSBORO

Chris Drummond W6HFP announced the move of BuddiPole to Hillsboro at the September 12th OTVARC meeting. Currently located in Redding, California, BuddiPole will begin operations in Hillsboro on December 15th. The company is known for its commitment to high quality US-built products.

BuddiPole produces portable antenna systems. The name-sake antenna provides a portable horizontal dipole system popular among RVers, back-packers, and campers. It has developed a world-wide following with users identifying unique ways to implement it for more than the HF design frequencies. The newer "Buddi-Stick" system provides a quickly installed vertical dipole.



**J. Steven Sanders**  
Certified General Appraiser  
**Sanders Appraisal, PC**  
**503-320-4100**  
sandersappraisal@comcast.net  
Orencia Station, Hillsboro, OR 97124  
Fax: 503-547-8200





## VACATION PORTABLE OPERATION

Taking amateur radio on a road trip opens new challenges...and new successes. In 2005, for a nine-thousand mile trip by car, the "grab-and-go" station assembled for emergency purposes was packed into the trunk and served well on those occasions we had time — and I had the inclination — to set it up. Consisting of an IC-706MKIIG, an SEC 1223 switching power supply, a Ventenna HFP portable antenna, and an AT-7000 LDG Tuner, the station had seen many different locations.

The September '07 trip offered the second opportunity to establish a portable station at Yosemite National Park (on the Valley Floor). Assigned a room on the ground floor at Yosemite Lodge at the Falls, the vertical antenna was set in a grove of pine and cedar trees. It, and three redials, "disappeared" into the surrounding vegetation. Testing for TVI and finding none, I was satisfied that this arrangement could serve for our five-day stay. Since there was no way to snake the coax out a window (security is really a high priority in Yosemite Valley), I had to run the transmitter end through a door partially ajar, and coil it just outside at night.

On our first day, VHF contacts with others visiting in the valley were made on 2 meters simplex. The 2/440 antenna was a combo mag-mount whip placed on the terrace table. The Turlock Amateur Radio Club link (147.00+ 100 Hz) worked well and I was welcomed by club members who monitor their 147.03 MHz machine with offers of assistance if needed during our stay. HF attempts on 20 meters failed with a dead band. However, setting the antenna for 40 and 80 found moderate band conditions, regular nets heard, and QSOs as attempted.

The other radio facilities in the Valley provided entertainment, too. Valley law enforcement, rangers, bear patrol, and routine operations were heard. We checked out the air quality station (fancy weather operation) and the Federal river flow installation on the Merced River at Happy Isles. The Air Quality station was linked by WiFi to the Park Operations Center, while the River Flow

station was linked on 400 MHz to a local computer and by Satellite link to Reston, Virginia.



### The Air Quality Station near Park Headquarters

My station was joined in the Valley by Eric KG6WOU who had a 20 watt rig with BuddiPole for 20 and 40 meters. Mobile KA6PTA of Merced checked in on 2 meters on a day visit to Yosemite.

Its worth the effort to carry amateur radio in some form on vacation ventures. Even if you primarily listen, the presence of amateur radio in an unusual setting makes for a satisfying experience. CW operation is easier, but the SSB station provided a good operation, too.

Give it a try.

- Everett W6ABM

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## WHY HOLD AN ARRL MEMBERSHIP?

Your national dues support ARRL and our national and local initiatives. Your dues support an organization that represents ham radio operators in governmental matters -- such as lobbying to protect our frequency privileges. Your dues go towards communications research, educational outreach, and help supply local volunteers with the materials they need to provide excellent public service.

As the national association for Amateur Radio, ARRL also offers "all-risk" equipment insurance, a monthly journal (QST magazine), local licensing opportunities, technical and regulatory information and answers, and opportunities for volunteers.

\* Amateur Radio exists due to its strong foundation of volunteers. The ARRL contributes to the Amateur Radio Service by providing opportunities and support for those who enjoy volunteering their service and skills.

\* ARRL sponsors the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) and National Traffic System (NTS). ARRL support and several publications make it easy to get involved.

\* ARRL-accredited Volunteer Examiners (VEs), and ARRL-registered volunteer instructors ensure that there is abundant opportunity to assist newcomers with licensing, and encourage upgrading to higher license levels.

\* ARRL public information appointees and other interested volunteers help represent Amateur Radio in government, the media and the public. Public relations is a grassroots effort with strong national support from staff at ARRL's headquarters.

\* ARRL regulatory efforts are strengthened through its support of ARRL Volunteer Counsel and Volunteer Consulting Engineer Programs.

\* The ARRL Field Organization is also a good resource for technical assistance! Each ARRL section has a Technical Coordinator (TC) and/or one or more Technical Specialists (TS).

If you are an ARRL Member, renew through OTVARC when you renew your club membership. OTVARC receives a 5% commission on your renewal, which helps defray costs of membership recruitment.

If you ARE NOT an ARRL Member, join when you renew your club membership and OTVARC receives a \$15.00 commission on your new membership.

Everett W6ABM is our Membership Chairman.

## HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

**19 - 21 October 2007**

### PACIFICON

#### Pacific Division Convention

San Ramon Marriott Hotel  
2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon, CA  
[www.PACIFICON.org](http://www.PACIFICON.org)  
Mt. Diablo ARC  
John Schulze KR6CR  
2006 Fir Street  
Concord CA 94519  
925-288-1730  
[pacificoninfo@astound.net](mailto:pacificoninfo@astound.net)

**27 October 2007**

### SwapToberfest

Mid-Valley ARES  
[www.swaptoberfest.net](http://www.swaptoberfest.net)  
Rickreal - Polk County Fairgrounds  
West of Salem where Highway 22 meets 99W  
520 South Pacific Highway West  
Rickreall Oregon

**30, 31 May, 1 June 2008**

### SEA-PAC

#### Northwestern Division Convention

[www.seapac.org](http://www.seapac.org)  
Talk-In: 146.660  
C. Wayne Schuler, AI9Q  
16414 NE 21st Avenue  
Vancouver, WA 98684  
Phone: 360-892-5580  
Fax: 360-892-5580  
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## National Weather Service



### The Portland Weather Forecast Office

and the

### Northwest River Forecast Center

*cordially invite you to our*

## Open House

on

**Saturday, October 6, 2007 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**5241 NE 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue**

**Portland OR 97230**

#### CLUB ELECTION SCHEDULED



Nominations for the four Officer and three Trustee positions are now open. Any regular, family, or life member is eligible to serve. Officers serve one-year terms, while

Trustees serve for two-years. There is no limitation on number of terms served in Officer or Trustee roles, present holders may seek re-election. Elections are completed at the December OTVARC meeting.

To nominate someone to serve, obtain their permission first, then send your nomination to OTVARC@GMAIL.COM or by postal mail to OTVARC, 880 NE 25th Avenue, STE 2-160, Hillsboro OR 97124. Nominations are due by the November 14th club meeting. Open nominations are taken from the floor at the November meeting. Ballots will be distributed following that meeting by email and postal mail (for those who do not have a working email address on file with the club.). Ballots must be in hand prior to the opening of the December 12th meeting to be counted.

Questions? Talk with Everett W6ABM or our President Robert WN7O.

#### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OPEN

Its time to renew your membership with OTVARC for 2008. Renewals may be sent to the club at: OTVARC, 880 NE 25th Avenue, STE 2-160, Hillsboro OR 97124 or handed to the Membership Chair or Treasurer at any meeting.

Membership dues for 2008 are \$20.00 for a regular member, \$5.00 additional provides membership for all persons living at the same address. Dues are on an annual basis.

You may extend your ARRL Membership at the same time by adding \$39.00 to your check (\$36.00 if you are 65 or older). OTVARC receives a commission for your ARRL renewal through the club. You may also join the ARRL by including the \$39.00 ARRL amount on your check.

Invite someone to join you in the club.

#### Your 2007 Club Roster is available for use at:

<http://tinyurl.com/296rdb>

This URL takes you to a spread sheet with roster information. It will be kept current. Your role in the freshness of the information is to notify the club when something changes at otvarc@gmail.com.



## HAMS ADVANCE AT NASA

Veteran astronaut Ellen Ochoa KB5TZZ, has been named the next deputy director of NASA's Johnson Space Center. Ochoa is a four-time space flier who has served as Director of Flight Crew Operations at Johnson. She will succeed Bob Cabana KC5HBV, was named Director of NASA's Stennis Space Center in Mississippi.

Ochoa considers La Mesa, California, her hometown. She earned a BS in physics from San Diego State University and a Master's and PhD in electrical engineering from Stanford University. She managed the Intelligent Systems Technology Branch at NASA's Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, California, before being selected as an astronaut in 1990.

Ellen flew on space shuttle missions STS-56 on Discovery in 1993; STS-66 on Atlantis in 1994, STS-96 on Discovery in 1999 and STS-110 on Atlantis in 2002, logging a total of 978 hours in space. She became Deputy Director of Flight Crew Operations at Johnson in December 2002 and Director of Flight Crew Operations in September 2006.

Cabana, originally from Minnesota, is a graduate of the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland; upon graduation, he entered the US Marine Corps, retiring as a Colonel in 2000. He has logged more than 7000 hours in 34 different kinds of aircraft, including the A-6 Intruder and A-4 Skyryder. A graduate of the US Naval Test Pilot School, Cabana served there as the A-6 program manager, X-29 advanced technology demonstrator project officer.

Bob was a test pilot for flight systems and ordnance separation testing on A-6 and A-4 series aircraft. A veteran of four space flights, Cabana has logged more than 1010 hours in space. He served as pilot on STS-41 in 1990 and STS-53 in 1992, both on Discovery. He was mission commander on STS-65 on Columbia in 1994 and STS-88 on Endeavour in 1998, the first International Space Station assembly mission.

"Having friends in high places is always a good thing," said ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White K1STO. "It is a great thing for the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program to have Ellen and Bob in these high-level positions at important NASA facilities. They are familiar with Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) and ARISS; recalling good experiences the two programs have provided students over the years are things that can be very helpful to the future of Amateur Radio in space."

## ARRL RECEIVES AAN1ARL

The ARRL has a new Emergency Communications tool in its toolbox -- MARS call sign AAN1ARL. According to W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia NJ1Q, "The call sign was requested to reflect both the holder of the license (ARRL) and the various MARS services (Army, Air Force and Navy)."

The MARS station will be housed at W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station. ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura K2DCD, said, "The establishment of an Army MARS call sign for W1AW begins a relationship with the Military Affiliate Radio System and the ARRL. Our two organizations are working toward the near-term establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding. Additionally, the League and MARS will utilize each other's personnel and technical capabilities to further enhance our emergency preparedness and response capabilities."

The MARS program consists of licensed Amateur Radio operators who are interested in military communications on a local, national and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications. MARS has a long and proud history of providing worldwide auxiliary emergency communications during times of need. The combined three service MARS programs (Army, Air Force, and Navy-Marine Corps) volunteer force of more than 5000 dedicated and skilled Amateur Radio operators is the backbone of the MARS program.

There are Army MARS stations in Japan, Korea, Hawaii, Panama, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Alaska, Central America, Africa, Germany and the continental United States. MARS responders operate on specially assigned military radio frequencies in voice, teletype and packet modes of communications.

-- ARRL Letter

Several OTVARC members are active in the MARS programs and leadership. Several current board members are also affiliated with MARS and provide leadership in that venue. -- Editor

## YOUR PREFERENCE NEEDED CLUB ANNUAL DINNER

OTVARC has held a dinner in December for many years. Early in its history, this was a pot-luck event and party. In later days, it was a banquet-style event. For reasons of cost AND scheduling in the busy holiday season, it has been suggested that the club move its annual dinner to the spring as a celebration of its anniversary each year. Your preference for type of event and scheduling is needed at otvarc@gmail.com. Thanks for your input.